

Message Text

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QUOTE

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SUBJECT: NARCOTICS COUNTRY ASSESSMENT FOR MOROCCO

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF AN INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT DESCRIBING THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM IN MOROCCO. PAPER WAS PREPARED FOR USE DURING FY 1976 PROGRAM REVIEW. WE INVITE MISSION NARCOTICS COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE ASSESSMENT AND CABLE ANY COMMENTS, CORRECTIONS OR SUGGESTIONS MISSION MAY HAVE. MISSION REPRESENTATIVE AT NEW DELHI REGIONAL NARCOTICS CONFERENCE MAY ALSO WISH DISCUSS ASSESSMENT WITH WASHINGTON REPS AT CONFERENCE.

2. BEGIN TEXT: SIGNIFICANCE: HARD DRUGS HAVE NOT YET
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BECOME A PROBLEM IN MOROCCO; TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE,

THERE HAVE BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT SEIZURES NOR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE CULTIVATION. MOROCCO IS A POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT TRANSIT POINT, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF ITS LONG COASTLINES -- BOTH ON THE ATLANTIC AND THE MEDITERRANEAN -- AND BECAUSE OF ESTABLISHED SMUGGLING ROUTES FOR TOBACCO AND HASHISH. IF TRADITIONAL NARCOTICS SMUGGLING ROUTES FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND EUROPE ARE DISRUPTED, THE SIMPLEST REROUTING OF THE ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC WOULD BE FROM THE NORTHERN TO THE SOUTHERN SHORES OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, IN WHICH CASE MOROCCO COULD BECOME A MAJOR FOCAL POINT.

PRODUCTION, CONSUMPTION, AND TRAFFICKING IN SOFT DRUGS, SUCH AS HASHISH AND KIF, HAVE BEEN INCREASING IN RECENT YEARS DESPITE STRICT MOROCCAN LAWS. RABAT ISSUED A NEW LAW EARLIER THIS YEAR RAISING FROM MISDEMEANORS TO FELONIES ALL DRUG-RELATED OFFENSES. THOUGH THE LAW DOES NOT APPEAR TO REPRESENT ANY REAL CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT'S AMBIVALENT POLICY ON THE USE OF DRUGS BY MOROCCAN CITIZENS, IT DOES ENHANCE AN ALREADY STRICT ENFORCEMENT POLICY AMONG FOREIGNERS AND TOURISTS TRAVELING THE COUNTRY. THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT DISCOURAGES THE MOVEMENT OF HARD DRUGS INTO MOROCCO AND THE MOVEMENT OF ANY DRUGS INTO THE URBAN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. ONLY ABOUT 4,000 MOROCCAN FARMERS, LOCATED IN THE DRY AND DESOLATE RIF MOUNTAIN AREA, ARE ACTUALLY INVOLVED IN THE PRODUCTION OF HASHISH AND KIF, 95 PERCENT OF WHICH APPARENTLY GOES TO EUROPE VIA BOTH THE SOUTHERN FRENCH COAST AND THE STRAIT OF GIBRALTER. SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNTS OF MOROCCAN HASHISH HAVE ALSO BEEN SEIZED IN US AND NEIGHBORING PORTS DURING THE PAST YEAR. CONSUMPTION OF DRUGS BY THE MOROCCANS THEMSELVES IS INCREASING, BUT IS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY LIMITED TO KIF -- THE POOR PIOUS MUSLIM'S ALCOHOL.

3. PROBLEM: THE MAIN PROBLEM IN NARCOTICS CONTROL IN MOROCCO IS THE EXCESSIVELY TOLERANT ATTITUDE, AND SOMETIMES EVEN THE CONNIVANCE, OF MOROCCAN OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY AMONG THE POLICE. KING HASSAN HAS INSTRUCTED HIS GOVERNMENT TO TIGHTEN NARCOTICS CONTROLS IN MOROCCO, BUT THERE IS LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT MUCH HAS

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ACTUALLY BEEN DONE. SOME MOROCCAN OFFICIALS, BECAUSE OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL EFFORT TO FIGHT DRUG ABUSE, APPARENTLY FEEL SOME MORAL OBLIGATION TO TAKE A STRONGER STAND AGAINST THE LOCAL DRUG PROBLEM. LOCAL MOROCCAN POLICE TEND TO BE LACKSADAISICAL IN THEIR APPROACH TO THE DRUG SITUATION BECAUSE THEY REMAIN UNCONVINCED THAT MOROCCO REALLY FACES THE POSSIBILITY OF A SERIOUS DRUG PROBLEM. SOME

FOREIGN OBSERVERS EVEN DOUBT THAT THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT HAS THE WILL TO ATTACK THE PROBLEM AT ITS SOURCE IN THE POLITICALLY SENSITIVE RIF REGION.

4. ASSESSMENT: FACING ITS MANY OTHER PROBLEMS, THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT IS UNLIKELY TO LAUNCH ANY VIGOROUS NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. HOWEVER, LOCAL OFFICIALS MAY BE MADE MORE AWARE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG PROBLEM AND ITS INHERENT DANGERS FOR THE YOUTH OF MOROCCO. THE DEVELOPMENT

OF INTELLIGENCE, ESPECIALLY ON THE CLANDESTINE HASHISH EXPORT ROUTES, AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF AN EDUCATION PROGRAM SPELLING OUT THE DANGERS AND COST OF DRUG ABUSE MAY HELP PROMOTE A GROWING AWARENESS OF THE POTENTIAL PROBLEM FACED BY MOROCCO. THE READY AVAILABILITY OF AMPHETAMINES AND SIMILAR DRUGS WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION MAY ALSO BECOME A MORE SERIOUS PROBLEM IN THIS AREA. END TEXT. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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